

The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII

FALL 1951

14

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

The President Speaks

"No news is good news". If that old saying be true then my message to you is a good one. Thus far the business of the Society has gone along smoothly this year with no major issues to stir us up. Perhaps they are just around the corner and all we have experienced so far is the Summer's lull. If so we will meet whatever arises.

Elsewhere in this issue there is an announcement regarding the new Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Here is a splendid physical plant which will soon try to acquire a highly competent staff. At this writing it appears that the profes-

sional opportunities there will be very attractive and I think they will have difficulty there only in choosing from many applicants. If interested get your application in. Since most of us are Veterans of one war or another we may, if we choose, also take comfort in the knowledge that as soon as its doors are open we are eligible for admission as patients.

We are looking forward to the October meeting which will be a combined meeting with the Auxiliary. Dr. Ohler, the new president, will be with us.

James L. Smead

Well Done

Medical men everywhere may well salute General George Marshall, retiring Secretary of Defense, for epochal accomplishments in the Service of his Country and the cause of democracy in general. They also must agree that at the end of three score and ten full years, he has more than earned his retirement.

All of us beyond the nursery age witnessed his patient and comprehensive planning during the late World War to provide adequate sinews of war for our troops as Chief of Staff. But Eugene N. Rostow, Professor of Law at Yale University, as a member of the economic

commission for Europe, has been better able to observe the results of the Marshall Plan toward European economic recovery. "By and large," he said, "the Marshall Plan has helped put European economy back on its feet — Economic recovery in Europe has gone far more rapidly than after the First World War. I believe that Europe is now approaching an end of the process of reconstruction."

Our hats are off to this honorable public servant who has our sincere wishes for years of happy life ahead.

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult."
—Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

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WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCHOOL

For many apparent reasons, a Western Massachusetts Medical School would be inferior to a new school, or an enlargement of existing schools in Boston.

These schools are very expensive to maintain and this vicinity is too near Boston and New York to attract the number of patients necessary to make this a medical center.

Patients make clinics and clinics make medical schools. Endowments attract a high quality of teachers, who in turn attract instructors and students.

There is no place for a second rate medical school. Let's make the best bigger and better.

The Legislature is expected to give this matter study during the next year. It behoves each doctor of Medicine in Hampden County to have an opinion on this matter. Many may well differ from the above opinion. Won't you send your opinions into the Hippocrat for the Winter issue. Should we have a return card on this very timely subject?

COMPLIMENTS

T. P. Sampson
Springfield

ARE WE OVERPAID?

The Department of Commerce reported in a joint survey with the A. M. A. that doctors average \$11,058 in yearly earnings before taxes. Of course the net income after the shearing is a far different story. Comparison with earlier years' profit usually fails to take depreciation of the greenbacks into account. The headline reader, therefore, gains an erroneous impression of how lucrative the practice of medicine is. His sons have yearned to be medical men.

By reading further he would learn, however, that even though eight percent reported takes of 25 G's or better, thirteen percent had less than \$3,000 net per year. A smattering of mathematics would prove to him that a brick layer with the overtime pay that he could collect if he worked as long as a doctor does would take home more pay. A slide rule might be necessary to facilitate the computation if an electrician or a plumber were cited for comparison.

'The figures are important at this time; states the Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin, 'when a shortage of doctors is so much discussed. The incomes do a lot to explain the shortage.' Can it be that the tide has turned and more sons are electing to carry hods (or pigskins) than medical bags?

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VETERANS TAKE NOTICE

The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is expected to be ready for occupancy soon after January 1, 1952. A temporary Medical Executive Committee consisting of Dr. Thomas F. Corriden, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. James F. Collins, Medical Director of the Soldiers' Home; Drs. George L. Ross and Edmund J. Zielinski of Holyoke; Drs. J. L. Smead and Joseph Hahn of Springfield, and Dr. John B. Dineen of Westfield, has been appointed to consider the formation of a Medical Staff and to discuss various medical policies for this new Veterans' facility.

The organization of four medical and four surgical services of three months each is under consideration — each surgical and medical service respectively to consist of a Chief Surgeon or Physician, a Senior Assistant and either one or two Junior Assistants. A weekly salary will be paid during the period of service. Consultants in the various medical and surgical sub-specialties will also be appointed, these to receive a fee for each consultation visit or clinic. Full-time resident physician opportunities will also be available in the nature of Medical Intern, Assistant Physician, and Senior Physician.

Both the Trustees and the Medical Executive Committee desire to give serious consideration to the applications of all physicians who are interested in becoming members of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Medical Staff. Application blanks may be procured by contacting James F. Collins, M. D., Medical Director at the Soldiers' Home headquarters; Cherry Hill; Holyoke; Telephone, Holyoke 2-9475. Obtain information pertaining to the types of positions available or to fees or salary schedules or any other pertinent data from the same source.

REGISTRATION FOR MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

In your volume VII, Summer 1951, number 10 issue of The Hampden Hippocrat an article appeared on the Registration For Medical Technicians.

Since this article may lead to misunderstanding I should like to amplify it.

The Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the A. M. A. is the sole agency authorized by the A. M. A. and the Board of Registry of Medical Technologists of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists to approve acceptable schools for Medical Technologists. The council functions by inspecting, reporting, and approving these schools, while the Board of Registry of Medical Technologists investigates and certifies the competency of the technologists. The council with the cooperation of the Board of Registry of Medical Technologists has promulgated standards for this type of training for the information of physicians, hospitals, prospective students and others, and for the protection of the public.

Technologists are being trained in these schools to work under the direction of qualified physicians and not as independent practitioners.

Acceptable schools for training Medical Technologists may be conducted by approved medical schools, hospitals, or state health laboratories affiliated with hospitals where the majority of the students' practical training is received. This arrangement should not discourage affiliations between the hospital and universities, colleges, public health laboratories or other hospitals.

All of the training of the technologists must be under competent medical control. As is stated in the Essentials of an "Acceptable School for Medical Technolog-

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ists", published by the Council on Education and Hospitals in 1950, "resources for continued operation of the school should be insured through regular budgets, gifts, or endowment, but not entirely through students' fees. Experience has shown that commercial schools operated for profit frequently do not adhere to proper ethical and educational standards and therefore are not acceptable."

Candidates who wish to enter such approved schools for Medical Technologists must fulfill the following minimum requirements: Two years, 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours, of college work in a college or university accredited by a recognized standardizing association. During the two years the following courses must be taken: 1. Eighteen quarter hours or 12 semester hours of biology which may include general biology, bacteriology, parasitology, physiology, anatomy, histology, embryology and zoology. 2. One year of general inorganic chemistry, 9 quarter hours or 6 semester hours, including lectures and laboratory. 3. Four quarter hours or 3 semester hours of quantitative analysis, organic chemistry or biochemistry, including lectures and laboratory.

The basic training has been found essential to qualify a candidate for the highly complex and continuous advance in procedures used in diagnostic laboratory medicine.

The course in approved Schools for Medical Technologists must not be less than 12 months in duration and must include all subjects which are included in the vast field of clinical pathology.

In this part of the state there are three Schools for Medical Technologists approved by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the A. M. A.

1. The Holyoke Hospital School for Medical Technologists, Holyoke.

2. The Mercy Hospital School for Medical Technologists, Springfield.

3. The Springfield Hospital School for Medical Technologists, Springfield.

Students who have successfully terminated the minimum of a 12 months course in these approved schools are eligible for the National Examination of

the Board of Registry of Medical Technologists of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and after successfully passing the examination receive a certificate from the Registry with the title M. T. (Medical Technologists).

Investigation and experience have shown that by the methods outlined above, competent technical personnel can be trained.

Wm. Kaufmann





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THE 1951 DIABETES DETECTION DRIVE

Diabetes Week November 11-17, is close upon us and Hampden District has a reputation to sustain, gained at the Eastern States Exposition 1949 when free blood sugar tests were offered to all and sundry throughout Exposition week. Upwards of two thousand persons availed themselves of the chance and over three hundred persons were found and directed to their own physicians. But another reason to give us special interest in the drive is the fact that New England has the highest death rate from diabetes of any part of the country. Taking into consideration the density of the population and oversupply of doctors, it is difficult to understand why diabetes is under such poor control, especially since most of the doctors are graduates of medical schools in Boston where the teaching of diabetes receives its greatest emphasis. Bearing in mind that the mortality of the diabetic under age 45 is twice that of the general population in the same age groups, and that the well treated diabetic does not die prematurely, it is evident that more publicity is necessary to make the public diabetes conscious. In Boston last year, the New England Diabetes Association held a fair at Mechanics Hall where free blood sugar were done, diet exhibits and lectures on diabetic diets were a feature, and many cases of suspected diabetes were discovered. The Diabetes Association of the District of Columbia launched Diabetes Week by the novel method of guaranteeing to the first child and adult in whom true unsuspected diabetes was discovered as the result of the drive, free medical care for their diabetes for lifetime.

Plans for Diabetes Week in Hampden District have not been announced, but

we can all make some contribution by giving free urine tests to all our patients and their immediate families. This type of service even if only for a week purchases good will far beyond the effort involved. The most valuable Health Protection Center is the doctor's office, and the private practice of medicine hinges on keeping it so.

NEWS OF THE MEDICAL AUXILIARY

Committee Heads Named at Meeting of Board

Mrs. Roger H. Cheney of Bennington St., Springfield, president of the Women's Auxiliary Hampden District Medical Society, entertained members of the board in her home Tuesday afternoon, June 25th. Committee chairmen were named for the coming season and program plans were discussed. Features of the program will be a joint dinner meeting with Hampden District Medical Society, and a fashion show.

The following chairmen to serve during the coming season are as follows: Nominating, Mrs. William J. Devlin; hospitality, Mrs. Myles H. Illingworth; telephone, Mrs. Richard A. Rochford; publicity, Mrs. Stanley R. Dixon; speakers' bureau, Mrs. A. A. Palermo; Legislative, Mrs. John Streeter; periodicals, Mrs. Daniel R. Wheeler; public relations, Mrs. John W. Turner; membership, Mrs. Lawrence Putnam; By-Laws, Mrs. Frank J. Jordon, Jr.

Newly elected officers for 1951-52 are: President, Mrs. Cheney; vice-president, Mrs. Martin Gaynor; recording secretary, Mrs. Joseph Visconti; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Wayne C. Barnes; treasurer, Mrs. H. H. Shuman; directors, Mrs. James A. Seaman, Mrs. Samuel Potsabay, Mrs. Morris Ritchie.

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THE AMHERST REPORT

The second postgraduate Medical Conference at the University of Massachusetts, held on September 12 and 13, was even better than the meetings of 1950 in the opinion of Fellows from the Western district who were present. They felt well repaid for attending.

Postgraduate instructions, as is well known, has been the avocation of President Richard Ohler. He is enthusiastically behind such assemblies, but the success at the present conference is due primarily to Lawrence Ellis, chairman of the Committee on Postgraduate Education, who unavoidably was in Japan instead of North Amherst during the Session, and to the local General Chairman, Alfred Glickman, and to the local Chairmen Drs. Garvey Adeson and Eric Joslin, Berkshire, Harwood Cummings and Perrin Freeman, Franklin, Henry Taggell, and Lawrence Durgin, Hampshire, and Drs. Rice and Smead of Hampden.

The panel discussions and symposiums were most successful in presenting problems of interest both to the general practitioner and the specialist. Indigestion, for example, is always with us and probably will increase rather than lessen in the rush of modern life. The choice of proper anaesthesia perhaps will be left to the decision of the trained anaesthetist, but all doctors should keep abreast with the advances so as to be in a position to advise and instruct parents and patients. Burns all found have been over-treated, where the patient should receive most of the attention and his blood chemistry especially to prevent sodium and potassium deficits and so to save lives.

Two excellent gynecological films were shown. Dr. Duncan E. Read discussed the various drugs used in obstetrics to produce analgesia and anesthesia. Also

methods of treating abnormal bleeding during pregnancy. Dr. Ohlfelder stressed the conservative treatment of endometriosis, if at all possible, with employment of surgery only as a last resort.

The discussion of chest problems by the panel of experts on pulmonary disease was lively and rewarding. When to explore and when not to explore a doubtful chest, that was the question. Nearly one-third of Dr. Overholt's routine explorations in undiagnosed cases proved the presence of malignant disease, often early enough also to prove the lesion curable. Six months later they would not have been so.

The Symposium on heart disease proved to be another profitable session — Here are some of the don'ts that were emphasized. Don't use the term 'pseudoangina' or 'mild angina' — you either have it or you don't; say 'myocardial infraction'; rather than 'coronary thrombosis'; don't tell a patient at the initial examination, 'your working days are over' and condemn him to invalidism; rather put him back to work as soon as feasible; don't forget that rice or low sodium diets are lethal if continued too long — watch chemical blood levels.

An honest roast beef dinner was enjoyed at Northampton's Rahar's Inn by 60 fellows who traveled the rocky road of Television with Professor Curtis F. Canfield, director of the Kirby Memorial Theatre of Amherst College.



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THE MEDICAL READER

During the vacation period when more time was available for reading, the thought occurred that much pleasure and no little benefit might derive from an exchange of literary findings by readers of the Hippocrat. The picture came to mind of the great example, William Osler, as presented by his biographer, Harvey Cushing. There he sat, you will recall, propped up in bed at the end of a crowded day, enjoying his customary half hour of outside reading, the perfect release from clinical problems and current vexations that refreshed his mind for the morrow.

The readings of Cushing's masterpiece, let it be said, is an experience in itself that no physician should miss. With his self-effacing skill the great physician comes to life, and the biographer in the process takes high rank as a literary artist. Most readers will find their chief difficulty in limiting their installments to thirty minutes.

This then is not the usual literary critic's column where opinions are handed down from self-appointed oracle, but rather a forum for sharing with others the worth-while results of our reading whether medical or literary. Therefore, if the idea carries any appeal, the participation of fellows of the Hampden District or of more distant regions is hereby invited. Only by methods such as this will the invasion of our homes and our culture by banalities that ride the air waves be circumvented.

Speaking of biography, much new evidence recently has been published* to enhance the reputation of James Boswell as a biographer of the first rank, in fact the first modern reportorial biographer who endeavored to present facts just as they occurred and speech as it

was spoken. Through Professor Pottle's efforts, medical readers will be able to understand the young man's dismay upon discovering that his lady fair, in spite of disarming appearances, had presented him with a vigorous strain of gram negative diplococci. They also may imagine how Boswell would have welcomed the boon of penicillin in such repetitive predicaments. But most of all they would be prompted to ask whether that 18th century era could possibly be the lamented 'good old days'.

Appropriately, Dr. Samuel Johnson, who owes so much to the genius of Boswell, spoke as follows: "A man ought to read just as inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good." The motion was seconded thus by William Dean Howells, "The book which you read from a sense of duty, or because for any reason you must, does not commonly make friends with you."** So don't let us push you into any chores if Barkis is unwilling!

*Boswell's London Journal 1762-1763, Frederick A.

Pottle, 1950, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc. N. Y., 370 pp.

**My Literary Passions, Chapter 7.

DR. TIMOTHY LEAVY

Dr. Timothy Leavy who for 50 years has been influencing medicine in Massachusetts has an article on page 397 of the September 13th issue of the N. E. J. of M. More than any other single subject this article is of interest to the doctors of medicine and their patients.

The writer feels that for the ensuing year, here in the foremost is the No. 1 story. I recommend that you read it three times at three different intervals. It can mean YOU.

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George St. Pierre

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Ernest A. Byron

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